Beehive Basin Instability

Date
Sun, 12/17/2023 - 11:45
Activity
Skiing

We skied two west-facing slopes and one east-facing slope between 8,500 - 9,200ft. on the shoulders of Beehive Basin Sunday morning. The ice crust interface in the lower-middle snowpack seems to sit between two layers of rather incohesive, sugary snow. We did not get results on several hand shears which is thought to be because of the lack of a slab above the ice crust in the snowpack.

One pocket in a glade of one of our lines had a short shooting crack ahead of my skis as I set our skintrack. ~1ft. of snow propagated uphill onto my skis. With further examination (pictures), it seems that the slab in this pocket, located in a small northwest-facing aspect was more cohesive than other slopes skied today.

We did not see any other signs of instability during our tour. One natural, likely old avalanche was observed closer to Beehive Peak, on the east-facing steep section of Beehive Basin's west shoulder.

Region
Northern Gallatin
Location (from list)
Beehive Basin
Observer Name
E. Webb